

REMARKS

The Office Action of March 14, 2003 rejected all of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Wilnau, U.S. Patent 4,409,764, in view of Kubica, U.S. Patent 6,349,520, alone or in connection with the Applicant's disclosure.

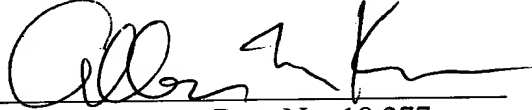
All of the claims have been amended to better distinguish from the disclosure of Wilnau. The amendments have been made to emphasize that Applicant's structural members are formed using two structurally separate shell members, such as the members 16 and 18 on the column of Figure 1 or the shell members 20 and 22 on the beam member of Figure 1. By contrast Wilnau's beam member is formed of a single U-shaped member 15. Accordingly, the claims as amended clearly distinguish from any combination based upon the Wilnau patent.

The distinction between the use of a single U-shaped shell member and two separate shell members that may be joined at some point in the process to form a U-shaped shell member is not insignificant. The method of the present invention, as defined in claim 17, involves positioning at least one reinforcing member within each of the interior channels before securing the first channel member to the second channel member to create what is the equivalent of a U-shaped channel member as employed by Wilnau. In practice, a plurality of reinforcing bars are often employed, as illustrated in Figure 1, and the use of the two separate shell members allows the easy insertion of the reinforcing members before securing the two shell members to one another.

In summary, none of the cited art discloses a structure or method defined by the claims wherein a pair of separate shell members are provided which may be later joined to one another, during the construction process, to form a single U-shaped member.

Reconsideration and allowance are accordingly respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Janice Lincourt